

## DISTRICT CODE AMENDMENTS.

Senate Committee to Make Detailed Report.

APPROVAL OF THE PRITCHARD BILL.

Measure Expected to Pass at an Early Date—Features of the Changes and Explanation of their Effect.

The Senate Committee on the District of Columbia has prepared and will submit to the Senate a detailed report on the bill introduced by Senator Pritchard, amending the code of laws for the District.

The report is entirely favorable, and it is very probable that the measure will be one of the first to be enacted when the Senate gets down to regular business. The amendment will have been enacted as a part of the code before the latter goes into effect on January 1 next.

The report explains clearly the need of the amendments and the part to be played by each separate amendment. The whole gives a better idea of the effect of the code than does a formal reading of the text.

**Explanation of Amendments.**

The report contains the following statements:

"Almost all of the amendments suggested are made to correct clerical errors or manifest oversights. The object of most of the others is sufficiently shown by the amendment itself. The following are the more important amendments calling for explanation:

"Section 33: The substitute offered for this section is intended to make more explicit and complete the manner and time in which the business of the fifteen justices of the peace whose terms end when the code goes into effect shall be transferred to the smaller number of new justices of the peace who are to be appointed under the code.

"Sections 115a to 115f: These sections are in all respects the same as sections 167 to 177 of the code, which it is proposed to strike out. The only effect of this is to transfer the sections from one place in the code to another. When the code was originally submitted to Congress, it provided that the office of Register of Wills of the District of Columbia should be abolished, and that the duties of that official should be performed by the clerk of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia and his deputies. As this would put the special term for probate business on the same footing as the other special terms, it was intended to transfer to it some of the duties of the Equity Court relating to proceedings for the sale of estates of lunatics and infants and the care of property of habitual drunkards. But as Congress has declined to abolish the office of Register of Wills and amended the code accordingly, it is now necessary to transfer these sections from the part of the code which deals with the powers of the Probate Court to that which deals with the business of the equity special term.

**Jury Provision.**

"Section 204: This amendment is intended to remove what it is suggested might prove a serious inconvenience to the courts of the District during the month

of January, 1902. Some doubt is expressed whether the grand and petit jurors summoned in December, 1901, under existing law, to serve in the early part of 1902 can legally render service as jurors in view of the fact that the laws under which they are drawn are repealed by the code. The amendment simply provides that the jurors drawn under existing laws shall serve out their terms, notwithstanding such repeal.

"Sections 387 and 393: Under the existing law of the District an illegitimate child cannot inherit from its mother, even when the mother dies having no other near relatives. These sections in the code allow an illegitimate child to take either personal property or real estate from its mother on her death. The amendments provide that this change in the law does not apply when the mother at the time the code goes into effect is insane and shall continue to be insane until her death. The reason of this is that a mother of an illegitimate child who while of sound mind had elected to die intestate because the law would give her property to her other relatives would not in the executed case be able to make a will giving her property to those to whom she wished it to go. Where such a child has a mother of sound mind, it is, of course, competent for her, if she does not wish the child to have it, to make a will giving it to some one else.

**Recording of Deeds.**

"Section 499: As this section is incorporated in the code it is capable of construction that a deed not recorded within three months from its date would not be good even as between the original parties. The amendment is intended to make it plain that recording is necessary only with reference to the rights of others than parties to the instrument itself.

"Sections 524 to 532: These sections relate to assignments and releases of mortgages or deeds of trust. In the code they are substantially in the form in which they were prepared by Judge Cox in the first draft of the code. They seem to have been taken in a large part from the Maryland code. Numerous questions and difficulties were suggested in regard to the number of attorneys familiar with the Maryland practice in this regard were consulted with and the matter carefully and thoroughly examined, and it was concluded that these sections would give rise to a great deal of litigation and that their usefulness was at least doubtful. No serious objection is made to the practice which has obtained in the District for many years in regard to assignments and releases of deeds of trust. Common-law mortgages are practically unknown in the District. These reasons it was thought best that these sections be struck out.

**To Put an End to Blackmailing.**

"Section 545a: This is a new section intended to prevent in the future a system of blackmailing owners of real estate in the District by certain persons, to their great profit and to the great injury of honest landowners. Multitudes of deeds purporting to transfer or encumber real estate in the District in which the grantors had been the shadow of a claim have been executed and recorded for the sole purpose of forcing the owners of the land affected to pay a round sum for a quicklime deed. It will be seen that the act only applies where the deed is recorded maliciously and with the intent to extort money.

"Section 1008: This section is a very long one—regulates the taking of depositions de bene esse in cases pending in the courts of the District of Columbia. A few changes in the section as it stands in the code have been made, but owing to its importance and the constant reference that will be made to it in court, it was thought proper, instead of merely specifying the amendments, to repeat the section with the amendments. All the amendments now proposed are to correct difficulties that have arisen or have been suggested as likely to arise under the section as it is found in the code.

"Section 107a: This is a new section, the object of which is to allow the presiding justice at a trial in his discretion

to permit a party who has called a witness and has been surprised by his testimony to put in evidence contradictory statements made by the witness to the party who has called him, or his attorney. This is in line with statutes in many of the States, and its propriety seems obvious.

**Law on Usurers.**

"Section 1152: This section relates to usury. As it stands in the code it provides that only the excess over the legal interest paid by the debtor shall be applied in the reduction of the principal of the debt. The amendment provides that all payments of interest on the usurious contract shall be deemed to have been made on account of the principal debt, thus compelling the creditor who enters into such a contract to lose the whole of the interest. As the section stands the debtor would run no risk, because he would be sure of getting the legal rate of interest in any event.

"Section 1271: This section relates to new promises to take the case out of the statute of limitations. The proposed amendment puts a promise made after full age to pay a debt contracted during infancy upon the same footing as a promise to pay a debt which has been barred by the statute of limitations, or requiring that in the one case, as in the other, the promise must be in writing.

**Real Estate Requests.**

"Section 1628: This section provides that a will shall pass real estate acquired by the testator after the date of the will unless a contrary intention is manifested. The proposed amendment is to avoid the possibility that because of the repeal of an act of Congress passed in January, 1887, which provided that after-acquired real estate should pass in such cases when that intention was expressed in the will, it might be held that after-acquired real estate would not pass under a will executed after that date, even when the testator explicitly directed that it should pass.

"Section 1643: It has been suggested in some quarters that the repeal provisions of the code as they stand will have the effect of putting an end to the sums of office of a number of officials in the District—the United States District Attorney, United States Marshal, Police Court Judges, Notaries Public, etc. While it is believed that this is an erroneous view of the matter, it is thought best to avoid the possibility of such a construction of the code by this new section, which makes it plain that the term of no official shall be affected, except where, as in the case of Justices of the Peace and Constables, it is clearly intended that their terms shall cease."

**BEGGAR SENT TO WORKHOUSE.**

Made Mistake of Asking Policeman for a Dime, and Was Arrested.

Charles A. Harney was sent to the workhouse for three months by Judge Kimball yesterday, on a charge of vagrancy. Harney is a lusty young fellow about twenty-three years of age. When he was arraigned in court, a policeman testified that he was in either's clothing last night, and this man came up to me on the Avenue and asked me for 10 cents. He told me he wanted to get something to eat, and I arrested him."

**Officers of Ladies Legion.**

The Ladies' Union Veterans Legion, Auxiliary No. 32, held its annual election of officers last night, at the Union Veterans Legion Hall on Pennsylvania Avenue. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. M. E. S. Davis; senior vice president, Mrs. Ada H. Wise; junior vice president, Mrs. Lizzie Allen, Jr.; chaplain, Mrs. Mary E. Brown; treasurer, Mrs. Annan E. Ball; conductress, Mrs. Mary E. Knight; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Jennie Hollinger; guard, Mrs. Anna E. Tynes; color bearer, Mrs. Mary Tynes; pianist, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Hilton.

## THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE.

New York's Up-to-Date Merchants a Great Feature.

Notes Picked Up on the Way Over.

The accompanying reproduction from the "New York Herald" of a section of the Brooklyn Bridge illustrates the advantage that merchants have taken of the enormous traffic between these two great cities. While there are other concerns than the one shown represented, the great preponderance of these particular signs evidently induced the "Herald" to give to its readers a general idea of what the patrons of the bridge are confronted with the year round.

The Brooklyn Bridge, than which, perhaps excepting the London Bridge, there is no other equally famous the world over, connects the two cities from Park Row, New York, to South Street, Brooklyn. It is a grand structure, and the local authorities are making it still more elaborate by the addition of imposing entrances in each city.

Work on the bridge was begun January 2, 1870, and the public had the pleasure of watching its progress for thirteen years. It was opened to the public May 24, 1883, and from that date to the present time has had an enviable record.

Considering the service since rendered and the fact that the bridge has become a public necessity, the cost of its maintenance is not excessive. Fifteen millions of dollars cannot exactly be called a bagatelle by the majority of the residents of Greater New York, but it is not such an enormous sum when expended for such a benefit as the bridge has proven to be.

The bridge, by the way, is a money maker. If you walk over, you are not required to pay, but that's as far as your privileges extend. You are not allowed to hang over the side in a pensive manner, or if you carry a suspicious looking bundle which might contain a diving outfit you are arrested at once by an intending imitator of Steve Brodie, the bridge jumper, actor, saloon owner, and real estate dealer.

If you decide to forego the pleasures of the promenade and ride in one of the company's cars the privilege will cost you three cents. Better pay a nickel and get two tickets. If you are riding horseback you must give up three cents for your steed. The company has not yet started a bargain sale in horse tickets, so there will be no advantage in buying two tickets for your charger. A horse and vehicle are taxed five cents, and if you are sitting behind a pair of steppers the tariff will be a dime. Each extra horse above two attached to a vehicle is charged for at the rate of three cents.

The bridge is just 85 feet wide, and has a river span of 1,555 feet 6 inches. Each land span has a length of 829 feet. The length of the Brooklyn approach is 971 feet, and that of the New York approach is 1,654 feet 6 inches. The total length of the carriageway is 5,998 feet, and the total length of the bridge, with extensions, is 6,337 feet.

The clear height of the bridge in center of the river span above high water, at 2 degrees Fahrenheit, is 135 feet. The height of the floor at the towers, above high water, is 113 feet 6 inches. There are four cables. The diameter of each single wire in the cables is 3.578 feet 6 inches. The ultimate strength of each cable is 12,000 tons. Each cable contains 5,286 parallel (not twisted) galvanized steel oil-coated wires, closely crapped to a solid cylinder 15 1/2 inches in diameter. The permanent weight suspended from the cables is 14,680 tons. For the year ended December 31, 1900, 55,475,328 passengers were carried by the bridge cars alone, and the receipts from

this source amounted to \$1,478,714, and from the carriageway \$113,448.

A magnificent view of the river and harbor is afforded, as well as that of both cities, Governor's Island, Bedloe's Island and the Statue of Liberty. To the south lies Brooklyn; its broad area carrying the vision as far as the eye will reach. To the north, New York; its marble sky-scraping buildings, golden domes, huge chimneys and noted spires all combine to photograph on the mind one grand panorama never to be forgotten. Not the least interesting feature of the free exhibition is the multiplicity of strikingly conspicuous signs, notwithstanding many people are of the opinion that they mar the general view.

**CUBAN CUSTOMS REVENUES.**

Exclusive of Export Duties Increase Exceeds \$250,000.

The Division of Insular Affairs of the War Department gave out for publication today a statement showing the customs revenues in Cuba, as follows:

The total revenues for the ten months ended October 31, 1901, were \$13,038,356.40, as compared with \$13,228,861.74 for the same period of 1900, and \$12,120,591.59 for 1899.

The duty on exports was abolished April 1, 1901. The export duties collected in 1901 amounted \$267,449.42; during the ten months ended October 31, 1900, \$734,775.98; ten months ended October 31, 1899, \$610,530.01, from which it will appear that the customs revenue, exclusive of export duties, increased in 1901 over the previous year by \$276,811.22, and over the second preceding year by \$4,260,434.49.

**FOR MCKINLEY MEMORIAL.**

To Exist Co-operation of Afro-American Societies and Churches.

An auxiliary of the McKinley National Memorial Association of Cleveland, Ohio, has been formed for the purpose of enlisting the co-operation of the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and similar fraternal societies and the various church organizations among the Afro-Americans, in raising funds for the memorial.

The central executive committee consists of the following members: Bishop B. W. Arnett, Ohio; Booker T. Washington, Alabama; J. W. Lyons, Georgia; Cyrus Field Adams, Illinois; Henry P. Cheatham, North Carolina; R. H. Terrell and Daniel Murray, District of Columbia. There is an advisory committee of 200 of the most prominent Afro-Americans of the country.

**ENTERING AS JAPS.**

Chinese Find a New Way to Get Into This Country.

CHICAGO, Dec. 14.—Chinese have a new scheme of getting into the United States in spite of the exclusion laws, according to a discovery which has been made by the Japanese consul's office in Chicago.

It is announced by Chancellor Yoshito Komura, of the Chicago Japanese consulate, that several Chinese had slipped off their names, and represented themselves as Japanese.

To one who is not well acquainted with the features of the two Orientals, the difference between a Chinese without a queue and a Japanese is so slight as to escape notice. This similarity is said to have been taken advantage of by the Chinese repeatedly and with great success to gain admission to the United States. The dress and other characteristics were changed in accordance. The sacredness with which all Chinese are said to regard their queues has been instrumental in getting them past the inspectors when their braids have been missing.

## FOR CUBAN AUTONOMY.

General Wilson Declares Island Should Be Free.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 14.—General James H. Wilson, formerly Governor General of Cuba, in a speech before the Louisville Board of Trade declared Cuba should be independent. He said:

"The Cubans are not in favor of annexation. I care not what people tell you here at home about the best class in the island favoring annexation, such statements are utterly false. Only the Spanish and the planters are in favor of it. As there are only 163 plantations on the islands you can see that this class does not count for much in this question."

General Wilson spoke strongly for autonomy and declared this country was solemnly pledged to this. As to the method by which this should be accomplished, the speaker thought the solution lay in the drafting of a treaty between this country and Cuba. He declared that he believed the President and all the members of his Cabinet were in favor of freedom for the island, and he said he thought this would be done just as soon as a stable Government was established in the island.

**CUBA NEEDS FAVORS.**

Else, Declares Cuban Planters, the Island Will Be Prostrated.

CHICAGO, Dec. 14.—Cuba must receive special tariff favors from the United States or the business of the island will be prostrated, declares Don Miguel Estrada, a wealthy planter from Santiago, who is in Chicago.

"Our people realize the great things done for us by the United States, and we will always be indebted to you, but we, at the same time, realize that without special favors in the way of tariff rates our commercial interests will not thrive," said Mr. Estrada. "Personally I favor annexation, but the majority insist on trying an independent form of government. I have my doubts of its final success."

**EFFECTING COAL COMBINE.**

Gates and Morgan Said to Be Working Together.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 14.—John W. Gates is interested with J. P. Morgan in efforts to combine all the coal properties of southern Iowa and northern Missouri. It is known here that options have been secured on all the mines along Gates' Omaha, Kansas City and Eastern Railroad, and it is believed that practically all the lines in the district affected have been tied up by the options.

Gates is pushing construction work on a railroad sixty-five miles long from Nowinger, Mo., north to open the undeveloped coal fields of the Chariton River, having within a short time built ten miles of road and opened three new mines.

**Northern Pacific's President.**

CHICAGO, Dec. 14.—President F. D. Underwood, of the Erie Railroad, is being freely mentioned in connection with the presidency of the Northern Pacific and there seems to be little doubt that he will succeed President Melken as soon as Governor Van Sant's opposition to the Burlington combination subsides or is beaten in the courts.

**Sleeper Harris Dies.**

PEORIA, Ill., Dec. 14.—James A. Harris, aged sixty-seven years, who went to sleep on the morning of November 7, and has been unconscious continually since, is dead. He was unconscious for five weeks.

## SERETARY COLE STILL WITH LANSTON

HIS RESIGNATION NOT ACCEPTED.

Objection to Going to New York Based on the Condition of His Health—Recent Mysterious Decline in the Stocks.

Secretary B. F. Cole has not resigned from the Lanston Monotype Machine Company, nor has he been deposed from the office by the New York directors of the company.

A rumor was circulated in the Street yesterday that one of the first acts of the New York directors when they recently obtained the controlling interest in the company was to intimate to Mr. Cole that his resignation would be accepted if tendered. It was said further that he had promptly offered his resignation and that it had been accepted during the past week.

The story is untrue, except for the fact that Mr. Cole did tender his resignation. It was not accepted, however, and he still holds the position.

**Why He Resigned.**

The facts, as learned from an officer of the company this morning, are that Mr. Cole recently decided that he would not be able to move to New York with the central offices of the company when they are transferred at the beginning of the new year, on account of his health.

He therefore sent his resignation to the directors at its last meeting. A motion was made by a member of the New York party that the resignation "be laid on the table" and that Mr. Cole be requested to reconsider and withdraw it.

Mr. Cole now has the matter again under advisement. He may yet resign, it is said, despite the request of the board of directors, as it is afraid that the New York climate might be too rigorous for him.

The central offices of the company will be moved from this city to New York before January 15.

**Recent Mysterious Decline.**

The price of Lanston stock recently dropped from 12 to 10, on rather heavy selling. Much comment was aroused by the decline, coming as it did after the recent acquisition by the company of a large amount of new cash capital and the publication by its officers of a number of glowing reports regarding the prosperity of the business.

It is said by some holders of the stock that the decline is simply in harmony with the generally weak tone in the Stock Market recently. Others intimate that some friction exists among the insiders of the company and that some important holder of the stock is selling out on this account. Still another theory is that the new controlling interest in New York wishes to buy more stock cheap to make its position the more secure.

It is now learned that the recent purchasers of the treasury stock of the company were President Baker and Mr. Fahnstock, of the First National Bank of New York, which is recognized as the J. Pierpont Morgan bank.

**Christmas Tea and Sale.**

The prisoners' aid department of the Diocese of Washington will give a Christmas tea and sale at Trinity Parish Hall Monday, December 16, from 3 to 7 p. m.



By Permission of NEW YORK HERALD. A View of New York City Looking Up Manhattan Island and Across the Brooklyn Bridge. An Idea of What One May See When Crossing.